Aquaculture Success Stories


Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute

California Finfish Aquaculture

White seabass are large, highly prized fish that are important to the recreational and commercial fisheries of California. Since 1983, the Hubbs-Sea World Research Institute (HSWRI) has been breeding, rearing, and releasing young white seabass into the wild to replenish the population. To date, HSWRI has bred, tagged, and released more than 1.2 million white seabass into southern California waters.

Hawaii Offshore Aquaculture Research Project

The Hawaii Offshore Aquaculture Research Project (HOARP), a collaboration between the University of Hawaii's Sea Grant College Program and the Oceanic Institute, demonstrated the nation's first successful offshore culture of tropical marine fish in a commercial cage. The HOARP produced more than 130,000 moi in two successful sea cage trials without the use of antibiotics or growth-stimulating hormones. The technology is being used today for commercial purposes in Hawaii.


Source: University of Hawaii Sea Grant College Program


Source: Taylor Shellfish

Washington Shellfish Aquaculture

Shellfish are prized icons of the Pacific Northwest. The cool, clean waters of Puget Sound provide some of the best shellfish habitat in the world. Oysters, mussels, clams, and other species have long sustained Northwest tribes and defined local customs and cultures. Today, Atlantic salmon and Pacific oysters are the two largest segments of Washington's $90 million aquaculture industry.

NOAA Aquaculture Program
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1-301-713-9079

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U. S. Aquaculture

Why Is Aquaculture Important For The United States?

- More than 80% of the seafood Americans consume is imported.
- Almost half of seafood imports are farmed.
- Americans consume between 6 and 7 million tons of wild and farmed seafood a year.
- Demand continues to grow as more Americans seek the health benefits of eating seafood.
- The United States may need to import as much as 4 million tons of seafood by 2025, based on demand and population growth projections.
- Even with production from wild capture fisheries at fully sustainable levels, increased aquaculture production from domestic or foreign sources will be required to meet demand.
- Growing demand for seafood creates an enormous opportunity for economic growth and new jobs in the U.S. aquaculture industry.

The United States needs both wild and farmed seafood products to meet future demand for seafood. Working together, the federal and state governments, research institutions, the aquaculture industry, and coastal communities are exploring options for increasing aquaculture production in the United States.

What Is Aquaculture?

Aquaculture is the breeding, rearing and harvesting of plants and animals in all types of water environments, including ponds, rivers, lakes and the ocean. Similar to agriculture, aquaculture can take place in the natural environment or in a manmade environment.

Marine aquaculture is the culturing of saltwater aquatic species. such as oysters, clams, mussels, shrimp, and salmon in ocean waters. It also includes stock enhancement, which is the release of hatchery raised fish and shellfish to restore populations in the marine environment.

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